

NSC BRIEFING

27 June 1955

THE FORMOSA STRAITS

- I. There have been no significant combat operations in Formosa Straits area in recent weeks.
  - A. Successful ChiCom air attacks on ChiNat aircraft near Matsu islands 27 June represented first ChiCom attempts intercept ChiNat planes in Straits. Further such incidents likely.
  - B. ChiComs devoting most of current activity to construction of airfields, rail lines, roads and minor port facilities along Fukien coast.
  - C. All five new airfields in area expected to be completed before end of summer. Rail lines not expected ready before 1956.
- II. Peiping has continued, in propaganda and through intermediaries, to bid for negotiations with US on "relaxing tension" in Straits area.
  - A. No change in Communist line that there is no need for cease-fire and that only US military "occupation" of Formosa needs to be negotiated.
  - B. Peiping has suggested in various public and private statements that it would also welcome international conference on wide range of Far Eastern issues similar to those expected to be put forward by USSR in "summit" talks.

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